1 Honorable James L. Robart 2 JAN 16 2019 3 4 5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE 6 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON 7 AT SEATTLE 8 9 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, NO. CR19-004 JLR Plaintiff, 10 PLEA AGREEMENT 11 12 V. TAE YOUNG KIM, 13 Defendant. 14 15 The United States of America, by and through Annette L. Hayes, United States 16 Attorney for the Western District of Washington, and Matthew Diggs, Assistant United 17 States Attorney for said District, TAE YOUNG KIM, and his attorney, Robert 18 McCallum, enter into the following Agreement, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal 19 Procedure 11(c)(1)(B): 20 1. Waiver of Indictment. Defendant, having been advised of the right to be 21 charged by Indictment, agrees to waive that right and enter pleas of guilty to the charges 22 brought by the United States Attorney in an Information. 23 The Charges. Defendant, having been advised of the right to have this 2. 24

matter tried before a jury, agrees to waive that right and enter pleas of guilty to the

Wire Fraud, as charged in Count 1, in violation of Title 18, United

States Code, Section 1343.

following charges contained in the Information.

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b. Filing a False Tax Return, as charged in Count 2, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1)

By entering these pleas of guilty, Defendant hereby waives all objections to the form of the charging document. Defendant further understands that before entering his guilty pleas, he will be placed under oath. Any statement given by Defendant under oath may be used by the United States in a prosecution for perjury or false statement.

- 3. **Elements of the Offenses**. The elements of the offenses to which Defendant is pleading guilty are as follows:
- a. The elements of Wire Fraud, as charged in Count 1, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, are as follows:

First, the defendant made up a scheme or plan to defraud or for obtaining money or property by making false promises, statements or representations;

Second, the defendant knew the statements or promises were false;

Third, the statements or promises were material, that is they would reasonably influence a person to part with money or property;

Fourth, the defendant acted with the intent to defraud, that is the intent to deceive or cheat; and,

Fifth, the defendant used or caused to be used, interstate wire communications to carry out or attempt to carry out an essential part of the scheme.

b. The elements of Filing of a False Tax Return, as charged in Count 2, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1) are as follows:

First, the defendant made and signed a tax return for the year 2015 that he knew contained false information as to a material matter;

Second, the income tax return contained a written declaration that it was being signed subject to the penalties of perjury; and

Third, the defendant acted willfully.

4. **The Penalties**. Defendant understands that the statutory penalties applicable to the offenses to which he is pleading guilty are as follows:

- a. For the offense of Wire Fraud, as charged in Count 1: A maximum term of imprisonment of twenty (20) years, a fine of up to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00), or twice the gross gain resulting from the fraud, a period of supervision following release from prison of up to three (3) years, and a mandatory special assessment of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
- b. For the offense of Filing a False Tax Return, as charged in Count 2: a maximum term of imprisonment of three (3) years, a fine of up to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000), or twice the gross gain resulting from the offense, a period of supervision following release from prison of up to one year, and a mandatory special assessment of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

If a probationary sentence is imposed, the probation period can be up to five (5) years. Defendant agrees that the special assessment shall be paid at or before the time of sentencing.

Defendant understands that supervised release is a period of time following imprisonment during which he will be subject to certain restrictive conditions and requirements. Defendant further understands that if supervised release is imposed and he violates one or more of the conditions or requirements, Defendant could be returned to prison for all or part of the term of supervised release that was originally imposed. This could result in Defendant's serving a total term of imprisonment greater than the statutory maximum stated above.

Defendant understands that as a part of any sentence, in addition to any term of imprisonment and/or fine that is imposed, the Court may order Defendant to pay restitution to any victim of the offense, as required by law.

Defendant agrees that any monetary penalty the Court imposes, including the special assessment, fine, costs, or restitution, is due and payable immediately and further agrees to submit a completed Financial Statement of Debtor form as requested by the United States Attorney's Office.

schedule of payments as proposed by the United States Probation Office and ordered by the Court.

- 8. **Loss Amount.** For purposes of determining the appropriate sentence, the parties agree that the loss amount related to the wire fraud scheme charged in Count One is nine million, four hundred ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred and ninety-nine dollars (\$9,499,999).
- 9. **Tax Loss.** The United States and Defendant stipulate and agree that there is no federal tax loss for purposes of sentencing. Defendant understands that this Plea Agreement does not preclude the Internal Revenue Service from assessing and determining any additional civil tax, penalties, and/or interest that may be owed by Defendant.
- 10. **Statement of Facts**. The parties agree on the following facts. Defendant admits he is guilty of the charged offenses:

### A. Introduction

- a. TK Mac Enterprises, Inc. ("TK Mac") purchased and sold wholesale cigarette and non-cigarette tobacco products. TK Mac has been licensed with the Washington State Department of Revenue (WADOR) as a tobacco product distributor since September 2005. TK Mac had two retail locations, one in Federal Way, Washington ("TK Mac South"), and the other in Lynnwood, Washington ("TK Mac North").
- b. One Stop Shopping ("One Stop") was established in 2015. Washington State Secretary of State records listed D.T. as the governing person holding all offices of the corporation. One Stop had one retail location located in Lynnwood, Washington. One Stop sold tobacco products, cigarettes and general merchandise.
- c. From 2001 through at least April 19, 2017, TAE YOUNG KIM operated and managed TK Mac. Washington State Secretary of State records listed TAE YOUNG KIM as the governing person holding all offices of TK Mac. TAE YOUNG KIM shared in all business and financial decisions related to TK Mac and signed its corporate tax returns.
- d. From no later than 2012 through April 19, 2017, H.K. operated as the true owner of TK Mac and One Stop. H.K. and TAE YOUNG KIM oversaw the business and financial operations of TK Mac.
  - e. Riverside Smoke Shop ("Riverside"), D&A Smoke Shop ("D&A")

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# and Valley Smoke Shop ("Valley") are commonly owned smoke shops located on the Puyallup Indian Reservation (collectively "Tribal Smoke Shops"). At all relevant times, A.P. controlled the Tribal Smoke Shops. At all relevant times, T.S. was the manager of Riverside.

## B. Wire Fraud Scheme

- f. Beginning no later than January 2014, and continuing through April 19, 2017 at Federal Way, within the Western District of Washington, and elsewhere, TAE YOUNG KIM, H.K., A.P., T.S., and others, knowingly devised a scheme and artifice to defraud the Washington State Department of Revenue (WADOR) and others, and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises, as further described below.
- g. The essence of the scheme and artifice to defraud was that TAE YOUNG KIM and H.K. caused TK Mac to purchase chewing tobacco from the Tribal Smoke Shops, located on the Puyallup Indian Reservation, and then caused the submission of monthly Combined Excise Tax Returns (CETRs) to the Washington State Department of Revenue (WADOR) on behalf of TK Mac, which drastically and fraudulently understated the amount of chewing tobacco purchased from the Tribal Smoke Ships, and which fraudulently claimed a tax credit for non-existent and sham tobacco sales to Tribal Smoke Shops, both of which caused WADOR to levy and collect far fewer tobacco excise taxes on TK Mac than those actually owed.

# 1. Tobacco Purchases and Sales

- h. It was part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that TAE YOUNG KIM and H.K. caused TK Mac to purchase tobacco products, including chewing tobacco, from the Tribal Smoke Shops, located on the Puyallup Indian Reservation, the majority of which purchases were made in cash, and a minority of which purchases were made by check.
- i. The Tribal Smoke Shops and TK Mac maintained a record of the check and cash purchases. The Tribal Smoke Shops provided separate invoices for the tobacco purchased in cash and that purchased by check. H.K. and TAE YOUNG KIM caused invoices for tobacco purchased with check to be maintained separately at TK Mac from those showing tobacco purchased in cash. The purpose of the dual invoices and this separation of invoices was to avoid detection of the fraud scheme in the event of an audit.
- j. It was further part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that TAE YOUNG KIM and H.K. caused the tobacco purchased with cash not to be reported to the WADOR for assessment of tax.
- k. It was further part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that TAE YOUNG KIM and H.K. caused TK Mac to sell tobacco products, including chewing tobacco, from TK Mac to various retailers throughout the Puget Sound region, including

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One Stop. A significant portion of these sales were conducted in cash.

- 1. It was further part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that TAE YOUNG KIM and H.K. purposefully avoided depositing cash receipts, including those from the sale of smokeless tobacco upon which the required state taxes had not been paid to WADOR, into TK Mac bank accounts and the reporting of TK Mac's cash receipts to WADOR for purposes of determining the tax owed.
- m. TAE YOUNG KIM and H.K caused cash proceeds from tobacco sales to be stored in a safe at TK Mac's Federal Way location, from which they were removed primarily by H.K. TAE YOUNG KIM and H.K. did not report all of TK Mac's cash receipts as wholesale receipts on TK Mac's Combined Excise Tax Returns.

# 2. Fraudulent Cash-for-Check Swap

- m. It was further part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that TAE YOUNG KIM, H.K., A.P., T.S., and others known and unknown, devised and executed an arrangement whereby TK Mac would transport cash generated by TK Mac and One Stop from the sale of inventory, including but not limited to tobacco products on which the required taxes had not been paid, to Riverside Smoke Shop.
- n. It was further part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that TK Mac would receive a check from Riverside or D&A in the same amount as the cash transported. The checks were signed by T.S. TAE YOUNG KIM created invoices showing purported sales of tobacco products from TK Mac to the Tribal Smoke Shops. The invoices matched amounts on the checks provided to TK Mac. The invoices were bogus; no tobacco changed hands in the transaction. The purpose of the false invoices was to substantiate the sham transactions in the event of an audit of TK Mac or the Tribal Smoke Shops.
- o. TAE YOUNG KIM and H.K. caused the checks received from Riverside and D&A to be deposited into TK Mac's bank account.
- p. It was further part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that TAE YOUNG KIM and H.K. fraudulently claimed the check payments from Riverside and D&A represented sales of tobacco products to a federally recognized Indian tribal tobacco store with on-reservation delivery. TAE YOUNG KIM and H.K. then claimed these payments as "credits" on TK Mac's CETRs.

# 3. Submission of False CETRs and Payment of Tax

- o. It was further part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that TAE YOUNG KIM and H.K. caused the submission of monthly CETRs to WADOR on behalf of TK Mac, which understated the amount of tobacco products purchased and claimed a fraudulent tax credit, thereby causing significantly fewer taxes to be assessed than those actually owed.
  - p. It was further part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that TAE

YOUNG KIM and H.K. caused wire transfers to be made from TK Mac's business bank account to WADOR for the amount of taxes shown to be due based on the false CETRs, which wire transfers involved interstate wire transmissions to BBCN Bank servers.

q. As a result of the above-described scheme and artifice to defraud, TAE YOUNG KIM and H.K. caused TK Mac to avoid the payment of approximately \$9.5 million dollars in excise taxes owed to the State of Washington between January 1, 2014 and April 19, 2017.

### 4. Execution of the Scheme and Artifice to Defraud

r. As a representative execution of the scheme, on or about April 28, 2015, at Federal Way, within the Western District of Washington, and elsewhere, TAE YOUNG KIM, having devised a scheme and artifice to defraud, and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, transmitted and caused to be transmitted by means of wire in interstate commerce, writings, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds for the purpose of executing such scheme or artifice: namely, a wire transfer of \$48,405.37 from TK Mac's Company's BBCN Bank Account No. xxxx-0995 to the Washington State Department of Revenue (WADOR) bank account, which wire transfer involved a wire transmission from Washington to another State.

# C. TK Mac 2015 S-Corporation Tax Return

- t. During calendar year 2015, TK Mac had received gross receipts in the amount of at least \$20,991,190.12.
- u. On or about September 15, 2016, TAE YOUNG KIM signed a false and fraudulent Form 1120S U.S. Income Tax Return for an S-Corporation for TK Mac for tax year 2015 under penalty of perjury. In that false return, TAE YOUNG KIM stated that TK Mac's gross receipts for calendar year 2015 were \$15,457,437.00. In fact, as he then and there knew, the gross receipts of TK Mac for calendar year 2015 were substantially in excess of the amount stated on the return. The gross receipts reported on the TK Mac 1120S tax return was a material matter.
- v. TAE YOUNG KIM acted willfully in signing and aiding and abetting the preparation of the false tax return; that is, he acted in violation of a known legal duty.
- 11. United States Sentencing Guidelines. Defendant understands and acknowledges that the Court must consider the sentencing range calculated under the United States Sentencing Guidelines and possible departures under the Sentencing Guidelines together with the other factors set forth in Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(a), including: (1) the nature and circumstances of the offenses; (2) the

history and characteristics of the defendant; (3) the need for the sentence to reflect the
seriousness of the offenses, to promote respect for the law, and to provide just
punishment for the offenses; (4) the need for the sentence to afford adequate deterrence to
criminal conduct; (5) the need for the sentence to protect the public from further crimes
of the defendant; (6) the need to provide the defendant with educational and vocational
training, medical care, or other correctional treatment in the most effective manner; (7)
the kinds of sentences available; (8) the need to provide restitution to victims; and (9) the
need to avoid unwarranted sentence disparity among defendants involved in similar
conduct who have similar records. Accordingly, Defendant understands and
acknowledges that:

- a. The Court will determine applicable Defendant's Sentencing Guidelines range at the time of sentencing;
- b. After consideration of the Sentencing Guidelines and the factors in 18 U.S.C. 3553(a), the Court may impose any sentence authorized by law, up to the maximum term authorized by law;
- c. The Court is not bound by any recommendation regarding the sentence to be imposed, or by any calculation or estimation of the Sentencing Guidelines range offered by the parties or the United States Probation Department, or by any stipulations or agreements between the parties in this Plea Agreement; and
- d. Defendant may not withdraw his guilty pleas solely because of the sentence imposed by the Court.
- 12. Acceptance of Responsibility. At sentencing, if the district court concludes Defendant qualifies for a downward adjustment acceptance for acceptance of responsibility pursuant to USSG § 3E1.1(a) and the defendant's offense level is 16 or greater, the United States will make the motion necessary to permit the district court to decrease the total offense level by three (3) levels pursuant to USSG §§ 3E1.1(a) and (b), because Defendant has assisted the United States by timely notifying the United States of his intention to plead guilty, thereby permitting the United States to avoid preparing for

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trial and permitting the Court to allocate its resources efficiently.

- 13. **Sentencing Factors**. The parties agree that the following Sentencing Guidelines provisions apply to this case:
- a. The parties agree that Counts One and Two should be grouped for purposes of the Guidelines, pursuant to USSG § 3D1.2. Count One (Wire Fraud) produces the highest offense level, therefore, the parties agree that guideline 2B1.1 applies to the grouped counts. *See* USSG § 3D1.3.
- b. The parties agree that the base offense level for wire fraud is 7 pursuant to USSG § 2B1.1(a)(1).
- c. The parties agree that the base offense level should be increased by 18 levels for a loss amount greater than three million, five hundred thousand dollars (\$3,500,000), but less than nine million, five hundred thousand dollars (\$9,500,000), pursuant to USSG § 2B1.1(b)(1)(J).
- d. The parties agree that the base offense level should be increased by 2 levels because the conduct involved sophisticated means, pursuant to USSG § 2B1.1(b)(10)(c).
- e. The parties agree that the defendant's offense level should be increased by three levels because the defendant was the manager or supervisor of criminal activity involving five or more participants or that was otherwise extensive, pursuant to USSG § 3B1.1(b).
- f. The parties agree that the defendant's offense level should be decreased by three levels, pursuant to USSG § 3E1.1, as further described in paragraph 12.

The parties agree they are free to present arguments regarding the applicability of all other provisions of the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Defendant understands, however, that at the time of sentencing, the Court is free to reject these stipulated adjustments, and is further free to apply additional downward or upward adjustments in determining Defendant's Sentencing Guidelines range.

14. **Forfeiture of Contraband.** Defendant agrees that if any law enforcement agency seized any firearms or other illegal contraband that was in Defendant's direct or indirect control, Defendant consents to the forfeiture, official use, and/or destruction of said firearms or contraband by any law enforcement agency involved in the seizure of these items.

Non-Prosecution of Additional Offenses. As part of this Plea Agreement,

1 the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington agrees not to 2 prosecute Defendant for any additional offenses known to it as of the time of this 3 Agreement that are based upon evidence in its possession at this time, and that arise out 4 of the conduct giving rise to this investigation. In this regard, Defendant recognizes the 5 United States has agreed not to prosecute all of the criminal charges the evidence 6 establishes were committed by Defendant solely because of the promises made by 7 Defendant in this Agreement. Defendant agrees, however, that for purposes of preparing 8 the Presentence Report, the United States Attorney's Office will provide the United 9 10 11 12

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States Probation Office with evidence of all conduct committed by Defendant. Defendant agrees that any charges to be dismissed before or at the time of sentencing were substantially justified in light of the evidence available to the United States, were not vexatious, frivolous or taken in bad faith, and do not provide Defendant 13 with a basis for any future claims under the "Hyde Amendment," Pub. L. No. 105-119 14 (1997).

16. Breach, Waiver, and Post-Plea Conduct. Defendant agrees that if Defendant breaches this Plea Agreement, the United States may withdraw from this Plea Agreement and Defendant may be prosecuted for all offenses for which the United States has evidence. Defendant agrees not to oppose any steps taken by the United States to nullify this Plea Agreement, including the filing of a motion to withdraw from the Plea Agreement. Defendant also agrees that if Defendant is in breach of this Plea Agreement. Defendant has waived any objection to the re-institution of any charges in the Indictment that were previously dismissed or any additional charges that had not been prosecuted.

Defendant further understands that if, after the date of this Agreement, Defendant should engage in illegal conduct, or conduct that violates any conditions of release, (examples of which include, but are not limited to, obstruction of justice, failure to appear for a court proceeding, criminal conduct while pending sentencing, and false statements to law enforcement agents, the Pretrial Services Officer, Probation Officer, or Court), the

United States is free under this Agreement to file additional charges against Defendant or to seek a sentence that takes such conduct into consideration by requesting the Court to apply additional adjustments or enhancements in its Sentencing Guidelines calculations in order to increase the applicable advisory Guidelines range, and/or by seeking an upward departure or variance from the calculated advisory Guidelines range. Under these circumstances, the United States is free to seek such adjustments, enhancements, departures, and/or variances even if otherwise precluded by the terms of the plea agreement.

- 17. Waiver of Appeal. Defendant acknowledges that by entering the guilty pleas required by this plea agreement, Defendant waives all rights to appeal from Defendant's conviction and any pretrial rulings of the court. Defendant further agrees that, provided the court imposes a custodial sentence that is within or below the Sentencing Guidelines range (or the statutory mandatory minimum, if greater than the Guidelines range) as determined by the court at the time of sentencing, Defendant waives to the full extent of the law:
- a. Any right conferred by Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742 to appeal the sentence, including any restitution order imposed; and
- b. Any right to bring a collateral attack against the conviction and sentence, including any restitution order imposed, except as it may relate to the effectiveness of legal representation.

This waiver, however, does not preclude Defendant from bringing an appropriate motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241, to address the conditions of his confinement or the decisions of the Bureau of Prisons regarding the execution of his sentence.

If Defendant breaches this Plea Agreement at any time by appealing or collaterally attacking (except as to effectiveness of legal representation) the conviction or sentence in any way, the United States may prosecute Defendant for any counts, including those with mandatory minimum sentences, that were dismissed or not charged pursuant to this Plea Agreement.

- 18. **Voluntariness of Pleas**. Defendant agrees that he has entered into this Plea Agreement freely and voluntarily and that no threats or promises, other than the promises contained in this Plea Agreement, were made to induce Defendant to enter his pleas of guilty.
- 19. **Statute of Limitations**. In the event this Agreement is not accepted by the Court for any reason, or Defendant has breached any of the terms of this Plea Agreement, the statute of limitations shall be deemed to have been tolled from the date of the Plea Agreement to: (1) thirty (30) days following the date of non-acceptance of the Plea Agreement by the Court; or (2) thirty (30) days following the date on which a breach of the Plea Agreement by Defendant is discovered by the United States Attorney's Office.
- 20. Completeness of Agreement. The United States and Defendant acknowledge that, except as to certain matters set forth during the plea colloquy in open court, these terms constitute the entire Plea Agreement between the parties. This Agreement binds only the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington. It does not bind any other United States Attorney's Office or any other office or agency of the United States, or any state or local prosecutor.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of January, 2019.

TAE YOUNG KIM

Defendant

ROBERT MCCALLUM Attorney for Defendant

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Assistant United States Attorney